

Jordan Dam Road Conservation Subdivision



Photo: Justin Robinson

County: Chatham Quad: Merry Oaks

Date: April 26, 2022

NHP Staff: Justin Robinson, Special Projects Botanist

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NHP) is a non-regulatory state agency in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Our biologists, data managers, and stewardship specialists assist landowners and managers in assessing and managing properties for the preservation of North Carolina's natural heritage. At the request of the landowners, NHP conducted a customized environmental review for the Jordan Dam Road Conservation Subdivision nearest the intersection of Jordan Dam Road and Moncure School Road in Moncure, NC. The project area was surveyed in late April 2022.

Disclaimer

Data gathered during site visits provided the basis for this ecological assessment, but not all areas of the property were visited in all seasons or during all trips. **As such, this inventory should not necessarily be considered comprehensive.** Some plant species, for example, are visible and/or identifiable only during certain times of the year. Also, while the inventory of the flora and plant communities was thorough, no detailed or methodical survey of the fauna was performed.

Background and Site Description

The project area is situated east of Jordan Dam Road and north of Moncure School Road. The project area is a mixture of even-aged stands of loblolly pine and hardwood species. During the time of agriculture, this tract was likely in pasture and timberlands. The current condition of this tract is likely the result of a series of timber harvests, in which forests were allowed to regenerate naturally or were planted in loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) between harvest rotations.

Landscape Characteristics and Context

The project area is located within the Triassic Basin. Soils in the Triassic Basin tend to be very acidic, clayey, and highly erodible and therefore usually unsuitable for row crops. Most of the non residential and non-commercial areas in the Triassic Basin are typically forest lands.

The tract consists of forested toe, foot, shoulder slopes and summits and is approximately 52 acres with an elevation of 200-300 feet. Moncure Boggy Streamheads, Poes Ridge Road Upland Forests and Lower Deep River Slopes Natural Areas are less than 2 air miles from the project area.

Ecological Significance

The project area is an even-aged stand of largely forested loblolly pine stands. The stand appears to have been last harvested approximately 20 years ago and appears to have been planted with loblolly pine. The forest floor contains a variety of heath species including deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), small black blueberry (*Vaccinium tenellum*), and Piedmont staggerbush (*Lyonia mariana*). The project area contains one small riparian area that has not been converted to loblolly plantation but is not large enough, by the criteria of the Natural Heritage Program, to constitute a natural community.

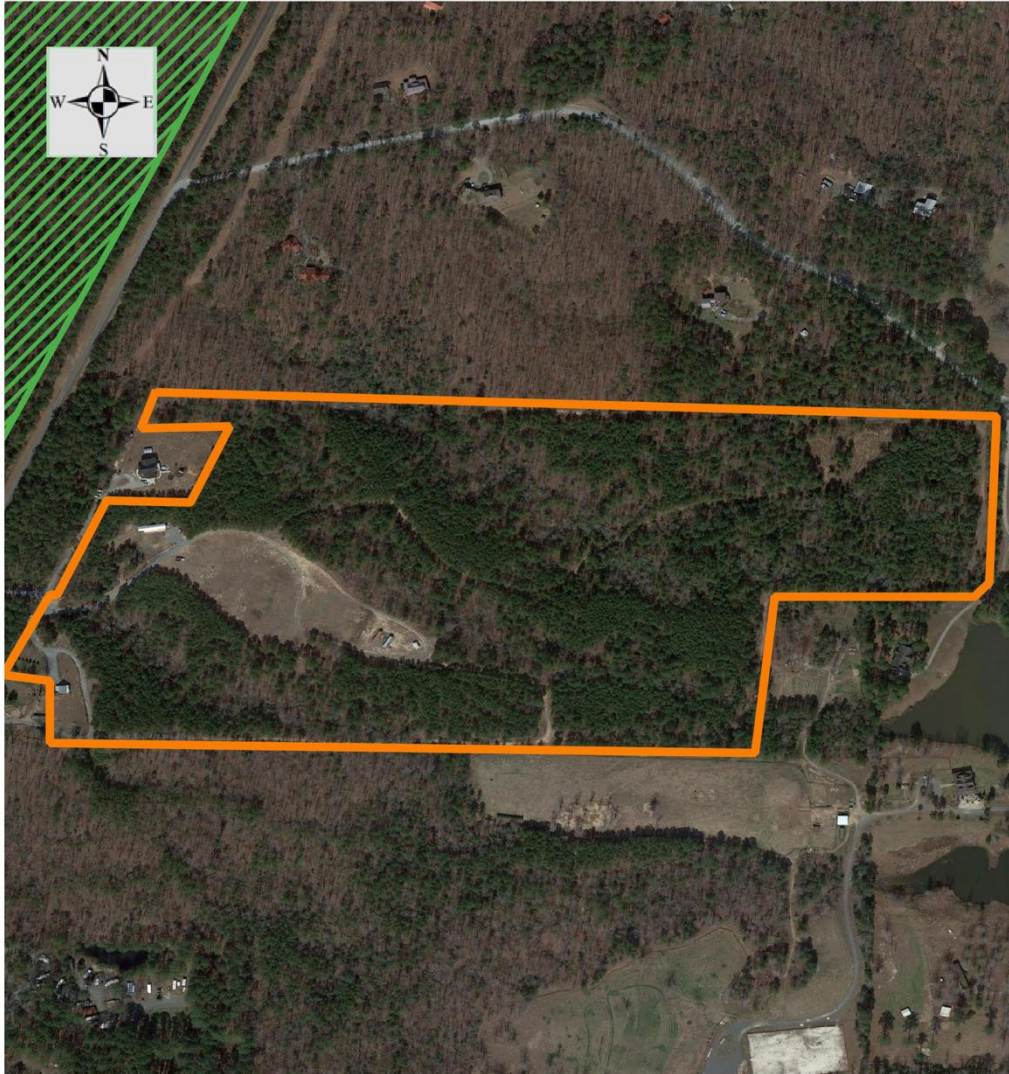
Restoration Potential and Management Recommendations

Although no rare plants or natural communities were observed in this survey, this project area represents a large, contiguous tract that has not been used for row crop agriculture in the recent past. Due to this fact, plants communities in this project area largely contain no invasive species and have large populations of native species that are much less common throughout the region. Due to the lack of rare plants in these ecosystems and ever-growing residential development, little has been done to conserve these kinds of plant communities.

NHP recommends protection of a 100-foot riparian buffer on each side of the tributary which occurs along the southern edge and in the southeastern corner of the parcel. This tributary is shown as a dashed blue line in the illustration “Jordan Dam Road Conservation Subdivision Map with Topo Lines” on p. 7 of this report. This recommendation will support aquatic habitat and water quality downstream.


The restoration potential area for this project area is high. Similar plant communities nearby have benefited greatly from prescribed fire and the elimination of pine plantation silviculture.

NHP recommends that riparian buffer and adjacent flora be maintained and periodically monitored.



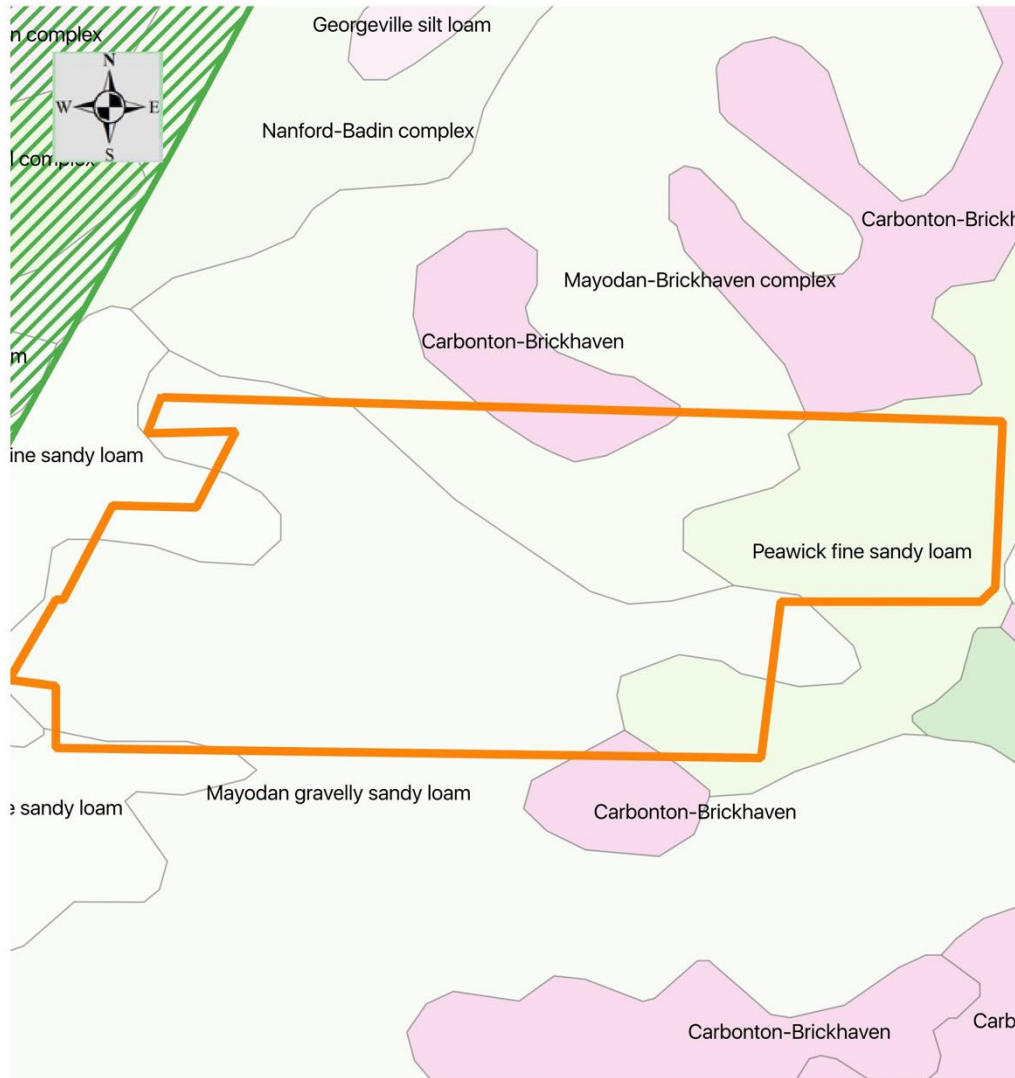
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Jordan Dam Road
Conservation Subdivision map
with topographic lines

-  Jordan Dam Road Con. Subdivision
-  Poes Ridge/Dam Rd Upland Forests Natural Area


0 0.5 1 1.5 mi







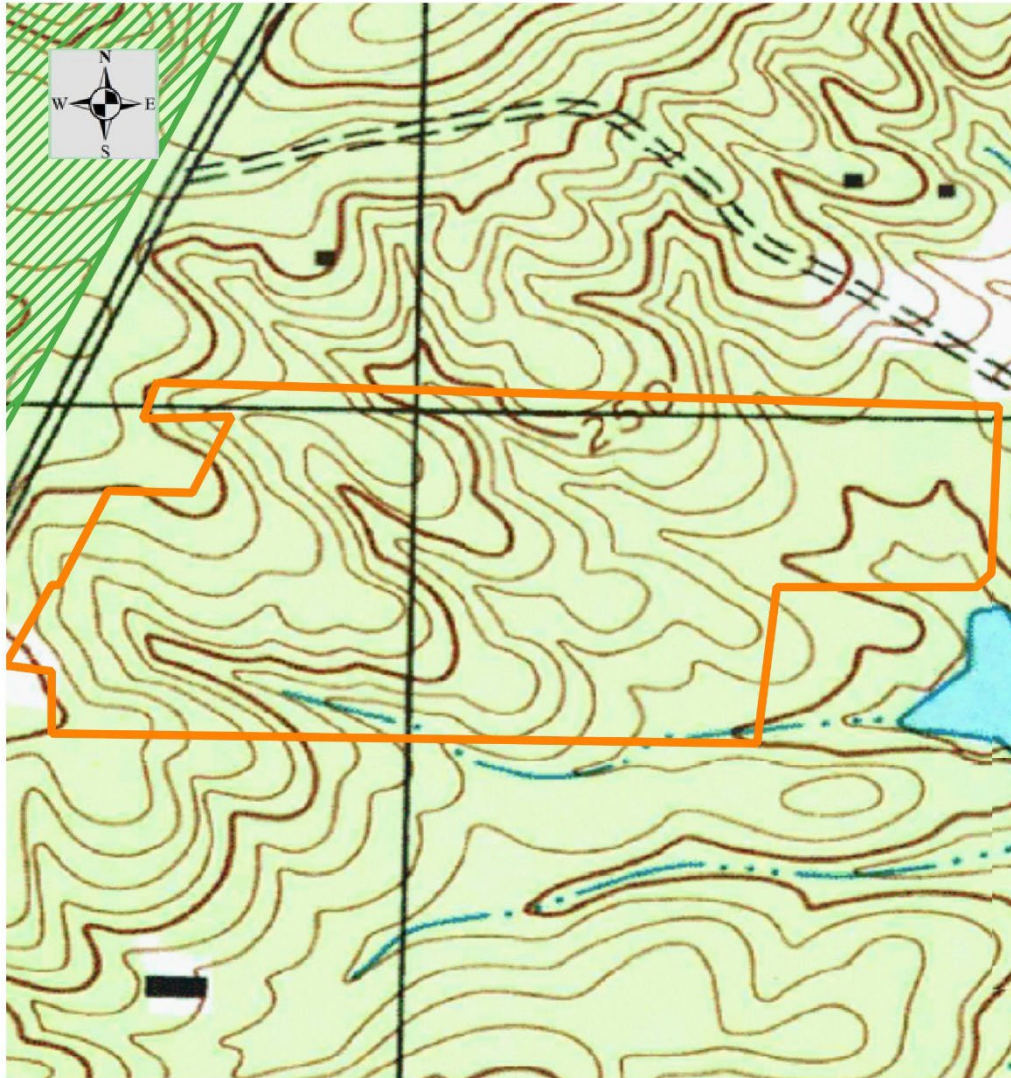
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Jordan Dam Road
Conservation Subdivision map
with soil series

-  Jordan Dam Road Con. Subdivision
-  Poes Ridge/Dam Rd Upland Forests Natural Area

- Soil Series
-  Carbonton-Brickhaven
 -  Georgeville silt loam
 -  Mayodan gravelly sandy loam
 -  Nanford-Badin complex
 -  Peawick fine sandy loam





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Jordan Dam Road
Conservation Subdivision map
with topographic lines

-  Jordan Dam Road Con. Subdivision
-  Poes Ridge/Dam Rd Upland Forests Natural Area

